United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh Message for U.S. Citizens

Nationwide Blockade from November 30 until December 3, 2013 November 30, 2013

The 18 Party Alliance has called for a 72 hour nationwide blockade starting from November 30, at 6:00 a.m., until December 3, at 6:00 a.m. During a blockade, the 18 Party Alliance will attempt to close all roads, rail lines and waterways. Citizens are advised to exercise caution and maintain awareness.

During the blockade, the U.S. Embassy will take a prudent approach to ensure safety of all employees. The travel of U.S. Embassy employees and their family members will be restricted to the Diplomatic Enclave (Banani, Baridhara and Gulshan) until 6 a.m. Tuesday, December 3.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information, Travel Warnings, and Travel Information Affairs page on Facebook as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through Travel Information at your fingertips.

In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, and by telephone at (88) (02) 882-3805 during regular hours. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (88) (02) 885-5500. For after-hours emergency services please press "0" and ask for the duty officer.

American Citizens Services U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh Drafted: Cons: KO'Connor Cleared: Cons: JFouss (ok) Cleared: Exec: JDanilowicz (ok)